

very smart. But she has also told us exactly what she wants to do. She has told us repeatedly. She has told us in speeches. She has written op-eds. She has written articles, right up through last year, where she has specifically and forcefully advocated that we use the supervisory powers of the Fed, which are enormous, to steer capital away from fossil fuel energy companies and steer it toward politically favored industries. So, in other words, turn the Fed into a body that allocates capital, turn the Fed into a policymaking arm of the government.

It is a shocking notion that the Fed, which is supposed to be responsible for monetary policies, supposed to be responsible for stable prices and full employment, hasn't been doing such a great job on the stable prices front, by the way.

What they want to do is have the Fed take on this whole new—it is perfect, from their point of view. It is a way to advance this climate agenda without having to take responsibility for it.

That is the reason that I am strongly opposed to Sarah Bloom Raskin serving as the Vice Chair for Supervision on the Fed. But that is not the reason that every Republican agreed that it would be premature to vote on her candidacy today. So the reason for that is because she refuses to answer questions. It was very difficult getting a complete—I don't know if we even now have a complete application from her. There were things dribbling out that should have been presented as a complete package much earlier in this process. But now she has refused to answer very fundamental questions, especially about a firm called the Reserve Trust and her role there.

So let me walk through, briefly, the sequence of events, and I think you will see why we have got some questions. Reserve Trust is a fintech company. It is based in Colorado. And like many fintech companies, they decided it would be enormously valuable for them to have direct access to the Federal Reserve's payment wires. To get that access, they applied for something that is called a master account.

Well, to my knowledge, the Fed has never approved a master account for a fintech company of this nature. And so unsurprisingly, the Fed turned down the application by Reserve Trust for a master account.

Then Sarah Bloom Raskin, who is on the board of Reserve Trust—she had been a Fed Governor and she had worked in a senior post at Treasury and then she joined the board of Reserve Trust. Well, after the application got turned down, Sarah Bloom Raskin called the president of the Kansas City Fed and lobbied for them to get the account.

Now, how do I know that? Well, it is because the president of the Kansas City Fed told me. But Sarah Bloom Raskin hasn't. When asked the question, "Did you call anyone at the Fed on behalf of the Reserve Trust," she

seemed to have developed a case of amnesia—couldn't recall. That is funny. The person who received the call remembered. And the chairman of the board of Reserve Trust knew all about this call. But Sarah Bloom Raskin had no recollection.

So what happened next? So they applied for the master account; it is turned down; Sarah Bloom Raskin calls the Fed; and then within months, the Federal Reserve does a 180-degree turn, reverses itself, and approves the transaction. A few months after that, Sarah Bloom Raskin steps down from the board and pockets \$1.5 million in stocks that she had been granted.

All right. About that sequence of events, I don't think there is anybody that disputes the factual accuracy. What we want to know is, how did this happen? Because now the Reserve Trust is the one fintech in America that I am aware of that got a master account at the Fed. It is enormously valuable, at least it is to them. You should see the advertising they do about it. They were turned down. And then it was all approved.

So I think we have a responsibility to find out how did that 180-degree reversal by the Fed take place? How was that decision taken? Who made that decision and why? And we have asked for the documents that would substantiate that. An explanation first would be nice and documents to back it up.

We have asked that of Sarah Bloom Raskin. She has told us she doesn't recall whether or why it was important to Reserve Trust to get the master account. That is funny. It seems like it was the most important thing to that company and she was on their board and she made the call. But this is the kind of stonewalling we are dealing with. Can't get answers to basic simple questions: Who did you talk to? When did you talk to them? What was the nature of the conversation?

And from the Fed: What was the review process? What led you to change your conclusion? Do you have a memo from the general counsel laying out the case?

By the way, there are lots of applications out there still pending. There are lots of fintech companies that would love to get the master account that Reserve Trust got. If there is a way to do that legally, I think everybody ought to know what it is so that they can decide whether, as a business matter, they want to pursue that. It is pretty hard for anybody to pursue that when they get stonewalled, as we are getting stonewalled.

It is pretty rich when I hear some of my colleagues come down here and complain that Republicans didn't show up at committee today. This is the only recourse we have when we are getting stonewalled, and we can't get an answer to basic questions—which is our responsibility to get answers to these questions—what else can we do? There is nothing else we can do. We offered to vote on the five nominees who actually

did provide answers to the questions in their applications. But as I said, the chairman preferred to have zero people advance today rather than have five.

And it is particularly rich when you consider this. The chairman himself, just in the last couple of years, urged his Democratic colleagues to boycott a Finance Committee markup over nominees that he wasn't satisfied with.

So I think this context is important. And I remind my colleagues, Republicans on the Banking Committee are quite happy to vote on five nominees, including four Fed Governors, but we are not willing to vote for Ms. Raskin until we get some answers to our questions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

REMEMBERING WAYNE STENEHJEM

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the late North Dakota attorney general, Wayne Stenehjem.

Earlier this month, North Dakota laid to rest a dedicated public servant for our great State who was both a colleague and a true friend. Wayne spent over four decades serving the people of North Dakota. Throughout that time, he worked to make our State a better place to live. Moreover, he was a fierce advocate for the rule of law and the rights of North Dakotans.

Wayne was the best at what our State has to offer, having called North Dakota his home for the entirety of his life. He was born in Mohall, ND, graduated from the University of North Dakota, and received his law degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law.

Wayne started his career in public service in North Dakota's State Legislature, where he served for 24 years, first as a member of the North Dakota House of Representatives and then as a member of the North Dakota Senate. He then ran for the position of attorney general and was the longest serving attorney general in the State's history, having held the position for 21 years.

In fact, Wayne and I both ran for State office in 2000, Wayne for attorney general and I ran for Governor. We spent much of the year traveling the State together and, once elected, we were able to start our service in statewide office at the same time. It was a blessing to have my time as Governor and now Senator coincide with Wayne's service as attorney general. This not only provided us with many opportunities to work together on issues important to North Dakotans, it allowed me to get to know him as a friend and to experience his many great qualities.

He was incredibly intelligent. He had a tremendous sense of humor, and he possessed a deep knowledge about a wide variety of subjects, from sports to trivia, to history, to law—you name it. Wayne was one of the most intelligent people I ever met. There is much to miss about Wayne and many great memories to be grateful for.

Wayne is survived by his wife Beth Bakke Stenehjelm and son Andrew, along with many, many other loved ones. He had a large family, and he loved them all.

Mikey and I extend our deepest condolences to Wayne's family and all of his loved ones. North Dakota lost a strong advocate for our State, but his legacy will continue on.

Rest easy, Wayne. Thank you for your friendship. Thank you for all that you accomplished.

Mr. President, I yield to my colleague from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I, of course, associate with every word Senator HOEVEN said. I think it is fortuitous we are joined in the Chamber today by the next speaker who came here to talk about something altogether different, but Senator WICKER knew our attorney general, Wayne Stenehjelm, maybe longer than I did, actually.

As Senator HOEVEN said, a couple of weeks ago, the good people of North Dakota lost a really good friend. We said goodbye to one of our State's most dedicated and beloved public servants. Attorney General Wayne Stenehjelm died unexpectedly and suddenly on January 28, just 1 month after announcing his intention to not seek reelection and retire at the end of this year.

Wayne was, as John said, North Dakota's longest serving attorney general, having been in office since 2001. Prior to this, he was in the State legislature, winning his first election while at the University of North Dakota—a law student at the age of 22 and continuing his service in the legislature for 24 more years.

He gave 46 years of continuous service to the people of North Dakota, and we are just now beginning to comprehend the impact of the significance of all that he did for our State and during those important years.

I first became acquainted with Wayne when he was serving as a State senator, and I was a desk page in the legislature. Our friendship and political collaborations continued during the years as I worked for the North Dakota Republican Party and later held State-appointed and elected offices. In the 9 years I have been in Congress, Wayne has been a valued friend, a trusted advisor, and an invaluable champion of States' rights and the U.S. Constitution.

His work representing North Dakota in State and Federal courts and as a member of the State Industrial Commission was monumental. It positioned our State to be an energy powerhouse and, at the same time, an unwavering steward of our environment. Among the most notable Federal issues that Wayne championed for our State was objecting to the onerous Waters of the United States regulations proposed by the Obama administration. Wayne skillfully led a coalition of 13 States in opposition, resulting in a nationwide

stay of that rule. He was also instrumental in procuring a historic stay of the Clean Power Plan from the U.S. Supreme Court. In both cases, he skillfully underscored the rights and the responsibilities of States, while drawing a blueprint for cooperative federalism in environmental policy.

Wayne's servant leadership over the past four decades was woven into countless battles, triumphs, and solutions. An ardent supporter of open records and meetings laws and transparency in government, every public group, including Governor HOEVEN, Public Service Commissioner CRAMER, and anybody in government understood that regardless of the size or the importance of your commission or your committee, we all felt Wayne's scrutiny on behalf of transparency for the people.

He developed innovative ways to crack down on illegal meth production and to better control the opioid epidemic. Human trafficking and domestic abuse issues were also always—always—on the top of his priority list and on his radar. He was a fierce advocate and supporter of law enforcement, the brave men and women who protect the safety of our communities. They all knew that Wayne had their backs.

His work was impressive. Yet Wayne was not a grandstander. He worked quietly and had much more respect for good outcomes than for personal gain and benefit. Wayne smiled all the time. He literally smiled all the time. And on the very rare occasion he didn't, you were probably in trouble, and you probably deserved it, but it was rare. He was a fun-loving person. He knew what to take seriously and what to enjoy. His balance of life is really what I think endeared him to so many people.

Wayne was the same person last month that he was in college, which is his greatest testament, I think, to public service. When you accomplish as much as Wayne did and reach the pinnacle of service as he did and he was the same guy who represented the University of North Dakota in the State legislature 46 years ago, that says it all about his character and about Wayne's stature.

Recognized among the very elite attorneys general in the country, the Nation's 36 current and former attorneys general who attended his funeral in Bismarck, speaks volumes about the high regard to which he was held by his peers.

North Dakota and our Nation have lost a true patriot, and Wayne Stenehjelm left an incredible legacy we can all celebrate. He dedicated his life to public service in our State, and our State is a much, much better place because of him. Thousands of people knew Wayne. Thousands more—and really millions—were impacted by Wayne's good work, particularly in the attorney general's office.

In the context of eternity, our life is but a snap of a finger, but in the context of history, Wayne Stenehjelm's

contributions are massive and long-standing.

On behalf of all North Dakotans, Kris and I send heartfelt sympathy to his wife Beth; his son Andrew; his very, very large extended family; and the legion of dedicated friends and admirers.

As a lifelong Eagle Scout, Wayne was no doubt familiar with the famous scouting adage, "Leave a place better than when you found it." Without a doubt, Wayne left North Dakota and this Nation a better place. May we all be inspired by his lifetime of public service and the profound impact it had on all that is excellent about North Dakota today. Rest in peace, Wayne.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise today during this Black History Month to call attention to two remarkable daughters of the State of Mississippi, two basketball legends: Lusia Harris and Ruthie Bolton. These two Mississippi athletes took women's basketball to new heights. And they continue to inspire countless young girls to follow their dreams in sports.

#### REMEMBERING LUSIA "LUCY" HARRIS

Mr. President, last week, when the Academy Awards announced their nominations, we learned that a New York Times documentary on the life of basketball legend Lusia Harris had been nominated for an Oscar.

This hit documentary has already received nearly 700,000 views on YouTube, where viewers can find it under the name of "The Queen of Basketball."

I was certainly thrilled to hear the news of this nomination, and I encourage every American to watch the 20-minute film. It is a story of American grit and determination and the story of an extraordinary Mississippian breaking multiple glass ceilings in the world of sports.

Known by her friends as Lucy, Ms. Harris led an extraordinary life, becoming a three-time national champion and Olympian and the first and only woman officially drafted by the NBA—the first and only woman ever officially drafted by the NBA.

Unfortunately, we lost Ms. Harris, all too soon, last month at the age of 66. Lucy Harris, a Mississippi Delta native, was the 10th of 11 children born to sharecropper parents. As a child, she would stay up past her bedtime watching the basketball greats: Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Oscar Robertson. In her words, "I wanted to grow up and shoot that ball just like they would shoot it, and I did."

At a towering height of 6 foot 3 inches, Lucy became a superstar at Amanda Elzy High School in Greenwood, MS. When she graduated in 1973, title IX was fresh off the books, opening up options for college basketball.

Lucy was quickly recruited to Delta State University on a scholarship, where she led her team to three consecutive national championships as the